

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Zimbabwe
Program Title:	Participation
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	613-008
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$1,385,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$746,000 DA; \$2,500,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 2000
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2005

Summary: USAID's program to enhance citizens' participation in economic and political decision making includes training, technical assistance, study tours, and grants to local organizations to: 1) enhance civil society's advocacy activities to Parliament and local authorities; 2) build a more effective and accessible Parliament; and 3) support local authorities to be more capable and open to local citizen input. The purpose of this program is to pursue longer-term capacity building in selected government institutions and in civil society organizations (CSOs) in order to promote sustainable dialogue and public discourse.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Improved CSOs' Representation of Citizens' Interests at National and Local Levels (\$885,000 DA). FY 2003 DA funds will be used to support the advocacy programs of sixteen CSOs so that they can generate increased demand for greater openness and inclusiveness in national-level decision-making through improved advocacy to Parliament. Pact, Inc. provides training, technical assistance, and sub-grants to carry out this program. The CSOs will continue to advocate on nationally significant issues such as human rights and civil liberties. These issues range from the amendment of the Public Order and Security Act that severely restricts citizens' freedom of expression and assembly, to advocating for birth certificates for HIV/AIDS orphans so that they can grow up and enroll in primary school, acquire a passport, and register to vote. At the local government level, small grants will be awarded to 14 local CSOs to strengthen their capacity to articulate their constituents' concerns and advocate to their respective local authorities. Advocacy issues will include improved delivery of urban services, transparency and accountability, governmental budget priorities, strategic planning and performance monitoring. The Urban Institute will provide training, technical assistance and sub-grants to the local CSOs. Principal contractors/grantees: PACT, Inc. and the Urban Institute.

More Effective and Accessible Selected National Government Institution (Parliament). This program will be continued using already obligated prior year funding. Support to the Parliamentary reform agenda will continue to strengthen the legislative process, the portfolio committee system, and the capacity of Parliament to better involve citizens and citizens' groups in Parliamentary business. Continual strengthening of the portfolio committee system will increase public participation in the legislative process and help Parliament exercise oversight of ministries. The State University of New York (SUNY/Albany) provides technical assistance, training, and study visits for Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff. Specific activities will include support to the Counsel of Parliament, development of a committee operations manual, establishment of public hearing guidelines, review and revision of Parliamentary standing orders, support to the Women's Caucus, expert technical support to the portfolio committees, and training for the Parliamentary clerks and researchers. Principal contractors/grantees: SUNY/Albany.

Local Authorities More Capable and Open to Local Citizen Input (\$500,000 DA). USAID will expand technical assistance and training from five to fourteen local authorities. Activities include: training elected mayors and councilors in good governance and effective participation of civil society; assisting local authorities to move towards increased creditworthiness so they can access private capital markets; and

introducing performance management to improve accountability. Principal contractors/grantees: the Urban Institute.

FY 2004 Program:

Improved CSO Representation of Citizens' Interest at National and Local Levels (\$746,000 DA). USAID will continue to support the advocacy programs of sixteen CSOs. More creative ways to support CSOs may be needed if the Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) continues to restrict the operational space for civil society by outlawing donor funding for civil society or insisting on GOZ approval of civil society programs. At the local level, USAID will support the strengthening of CSOs so they can advocate for democratic reform, and respond to GOZ attempts to restrict their operations. Principal contractors/grantees: PACT, Inc. and the Urban Institute.

More Effective and Accessible Selected National Government Institution (Parliament) (\$700,000 ESF). Support to the portfolio committee system, the legislative process, and civic participation will continue. USAID will encourage a stronger Committee system in order to provide enhanced public participation and increased oversight of the executive branch. Principal contractors/grantees: SUNY/Albany.

Local Authorities More Capable and Open to Local Citizen Input (\$1,800,000 ESF). USAID will expand its support from 14 to 18 sites in both urban and rural areas to broaden the momentum for participatory governance at the local level. USAID will target reform-minded and democratic local authorities. Principal contractors/grantees: the Urban Institute.

Performance and Results: Notwithstanding the GOZ's concerted efforts to narrow the space for political dialogue, USAID's civil society advocacy program continued to strengthen CSOs' capacity to advocate on issues of national importance. In 2002, there were numerous obstacles to the operation of both Parliament and CSOs. First, Parliament closed down for business from January through March so that members of Parliament (MPs) could campaign for their party's Presidential candidate. Second, the GOZ enacted new laws to restrict the ability of organizations to hold public meetings and in many cases the police applied these laws to restrict opposition MPs from meeting with their constituents. Third, numerous CSO employees were subjected to harassment and violence when trying to carry out their regular duties. The psychological impact associated with living and operating in such an insecure setting meant that CSOs had to be courageous, determined, and strategic to carry out their programs. Even within this difficult environment, however, 15 of the 16 CSOs that USAID supports demonstrated improvement in their advocacy programs. They advocated for issues which are nationally significant; found creative ways to hold public meetings; continued to engage policy makers; and created more valid engagement between themselves and their MPs.

In Parliament, a number of Portfolio Committees took important steps towards exercising legislative oversight of government ministries and all committees significantly expanded public participation. The environment and tourism, health, agriculture, education and local government committees all reviewed ministry policies and issued reports suggesting improvements. All twelve committees held well-attended public hearings that involved both the executive branch and CSOs. These hearings provided an avenue for unprecedented civic participation in decision making and the committee chairs from both parties demonstrated extraordinary bipartisanship in carrying out their business. Although this dialogue takes place among back-bencher MPs and local authorities, it continues to build pressure for reform and builds bridges between members of the two major parties as they attempt to govern in Zimbabwe's polarized political atmosphere.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Zimbabwe

613-008 Participation	DA	DFA	ESF
Through September 30, 2001			
Obligations	14,433	100	3,979
Expenditures	5,793	0	530
Unliquidated	8,640	100	3,449
Fiscal Year 2002			
Obligations	2,475	0	4,269
Expenditures	1,827	0	2,407
Through September 30, 2002			
Obligations	16,908	100	8,248
Expenditures	7,620	0	2,937
Unliquidated	9,288	100	5,311
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA			
Obligations	1,385	0	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003			
Obligations	1,385	0	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA			
Obligations	746	0	2,500
Future Obligations	0	0	0
Est. Total Cost	19,039	100	10,748